

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 USIE-00
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FM USMISSION USNATO
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USNATO 00225

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, OCON, MILI
SUBJECT: TRANSATLANTIC DIALOG

REF: (A) STATE 303627 DTG 210127ZDEC77, (B) USNATO 13035
DTG 231259ZDEC77. (C) USNATO 12204 DTG 051623ZDEC77.
SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE REPORTS STATUS OF TRANSATLANTIC
DIALOGUE (TAD) AND PROVIDES MISSION VIEWS. ACTION
REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE. END SUMMARY.

1. STATUS. ON JANUARY 6, 1978, ITALIAN NADREP (CAMPANA)
ADVISED:

A. THE IEPG IS NOW FORMULATING ITS RESPONSE TO THE US
REPLY (REF A). THE IEPG RESPONSE MAY BE AVAILABLE BY
JANUARY 13.

B. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED (REF B) THE IEPG WAS DIS-
APPOINTED IN THE US RESPONSE BECAUSE IT DID NOT SPECIFI-
CALLY ADDRESS THE FOUR DISCUSSION TOPICS SUGGESTED BY
THE IEPG. ACCORDING TO CAMPANA, THE IEPG WOULD HAVE PRE-
FERRED THE US TO INDICATE WHETHER IT AGREED TO BEGIN WITH
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THESE POINTS AND PERHAPS GIVE PRELIMINARY VIEWS ON EACH.

C. CAMPANA (SPEAKING PERSONALLY) INDICATED THE POSSIBILITY
OF BROADENING THE DISCUSSION OF OBSTACLES TO INCLUDE THOSE
CONFRONTING US ACCESS TO EUROPEAN MARKETS. CAMPANA WENT
ON TO SAY THE DISCUSSION COULD BEGIN BY EXAMINING THE
OBSTACLES REPORTED IN THE 1976 SECDEF REPORT TO CONGRESS

ON RATIONALIZATION/STANDARDIZATION WITHIN NATO.

D. THE IEPG IS LIKELY TO ASK THE US TO PROVIDE MORE DETAILS ON THE "SPECIFIC ITEMS IN FIELDS SUCH AS THE REMOVAL OF RESTRAINTS TO MARKET ACCESSIBILITY..." REFERRED TO IN REF A.

E. THE IEPG NOW SEEMS TO FAVOR BEGINNING THE TAD AT THE DEPUTY NAD LEVEL WITH A FACE-TO-FACE MEETING IN MID-MARCH 1978. THE FOLLOWING IEPG MEETINGS ARE PLANNED:

- JOINT MEETING OF IEPG PANELS I AND II IN LONDON - JANUARY 13, 1978.
- MEETING OF IEPG PANEL III IN BONN - JANUARY 26-27, 1978.
- MEETING OF IEPG AD HOC WORKING GROUP IN BRUSSELS - FEBRUARY 17, 1978.
- MEETING OF IEPG NADS IN ROME - APRIL 3-4, 1978.

2. MISSION VIEWS.

- WE BELIEVE THE MAJOR POINT WHICH MUST BE CLEARLY ESTABLISHED PRIOR TO THE FACE-TO-FACE MEETING IS THE CONFIDENTIAL

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IMPORTANCE OF A TRULY TWO-WAY DIALOGUE. WE SHOULD NOT ENTER INTO THE TAD ON THE BASIS OF TERMS OF REFERENCE WHICH ARE LIMITED TO ALLOWING THE EUROPEANS TO COMPLAIN ABOUT US RESTRICTIVE PRACTICES AND WHICH DO NOT PROVIDE US WITH RECIPROCAL OPPORTUNITIES. THE IEPG'S TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR DISCUSSING OBSTACLES (TOPIC 1) FALL INTO THIS CATEGORY.

- WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE THAT CORRIDOR WORK HERE COULD PRODUCE A PROPOSAL FOR A GENUINE DIALOGUE ON OBSTACLES IN MAININI'S RESPONSE. UNLESS WASHINGTON HAS PROBLEMS THEREFORE WE PROPOSE DURING THIS WEEK TO LAY OUT IN CLEAR TERMS TO ITALIANS AND FRENCH OUR VIEW THAT

- (A) POINT 1 OF IEPG LIST OF DISCUSSION TOPICS FAILS TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF NEED TO REMOVE OR REDUCE EUROPEAN AS WELL AS US IMPEDIMENTS TO ACCESS TO DEFENSE EQUIPMENT;

- (B) ULTIMATE AIM OF TAD SHOULD BE ENHANCED ALLIANCE COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS AND THAT NEITHER SIDE SHOULD ATTEMPT TO SKEW TAD IN ORDER TO GAIN ECONOMIC ADVANTAGE, AND

- (C) WE HOPE MAININI'S REPLY WILL SIGNAL IEPG AGREEMENT WITH THESE VIEWS RE TOPIC 1 SO THAT TAD CAN BEGIN SOON ON AN EQUITABLE, REALISTIC BASIS.

- IF IEPG RESPONSE MEETS OUR REQUIREMENTS WE BELIEVE TAD COULD BE GENERALLY HELD AT DEP NAD LEVEL. DEP NADS COULD BE REINFORCED AS NECESSARY FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC WORK AND/OR COULD MOVE SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL ISSUES TO THE COUNCIL OR AD HOC COMMITTEE ON EQUIPMENT OPERABILITY. WE BELIEVE SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT WOULD BE MOST LIKELY TO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 USNATO 00225

AVOID PROCEDURAL PROBLEMS WITH IEPG AND HELP LAUNCH DIALOGUE SOONER RATHER THAN LATER WHILE LEAVING ROOM FOR US INTEREST IN INSURING DIALOGUE ENCOMPASSES INTERESTS BEYOND USUAL NAD PROCUREMENT ONES.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE BY JANUARY 11 ON WHETHER TO UNDERTAKE CORRIDOR WORK TO LOOSEN IEPG POSITION ON OBSTACLES POINT. GLITMAN

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